

WE CLAIM:

Sub
A1

1. A material suitable for a transversely extendible containment flap in an absorbent article comprising:

- a) the material having a first axis and a second axis,
- b) the material having a Young's modulus up to about 4.5 psi/% in the first axis.

2. The material suitable for a transversely extendible containment flap in an absorbent article of Claim 1, further comprising: the material having a Young's modulus of between about 29 psi/% to about 95 psi/% in the second axis.

3. The material suitable for a transversely extendible containment flap in an absorbent article of Claim 1, further comprising:

- a) the material having a CD and an MD,
- b) the material having a Young's modulus of between about 3.0 psi/% to about 3.7 psi/% in the CD.

4. The material suitable for a transversely extendible containment flap in an absorbent article of Claim 3, further comprising: the material having a Young's modulus of between about 85 psi/% to about 95 psi/% in the MD.

5. The material suitable for a transversely extendible containment flap in an absorbent article of Claim 1, further comprising:

- a) the material having a CD and an MD,
- b) the material having a Young's modulus of about 0.9 psi/% in the MD.

6. The material suitable for a transversely extendible containment flap in an absorbent article of Claim 5, further comprising: the material having a Young's modulus of greater than about 29 psi/% in the CD

7. The material suitable for a transversely extendible containment flap in an absorbent article of Claim 3, further comprising: the material having an MD:CD Young's modulus ratio of between about 24 and about 30.

8. The material suitable for a transversely extendible containment flap in an absorbent article of Claim 5, further comprising: the material having an CD:MD Young's modulus ratio of about 32.

9. The material suitable for a transversely extendible containment flap in an absorbent article of Claim 1, further comprising: the material having a basis weight of between about 0.4 osy and about 1.0 osy.

10. The material suitable for a transversely extendible containment flap in an absorbent article of Claim 1, further comprising: the material having a basis weight of about 0.6 osy.

11. The material suitable for a transversely extendible containment flap in an absorbent article of Claim 3, further comprising: a necked spunbond nonwoven web of substantially continuous bicomponent fibers being necked to about 45% of its original width, the material having a basis weight of about 0.4 osy, a Young's modulus in the CD of about 3 psi/%, and a hydrohead of up to about 4 mbar.

12. The material suitable for a transversely extendible containment flap in an absorbent article of Claim 3, further comprising: a spunbond/meltblown/spunbond laminate having two layers of substantially continuous bicomponent spunbond fibers, each being necked to about 45% of their original width and having a basis weight of about 0.4 osy; and an about 8 gsm layer of elastomeric fibers having a basis weight of about 0.2 osy; the material having a Young's modulus in the CD of about 3.7 psi/%, and a hydrohead of greater than about 11 mbar.

13. The material suitable for a transversely extendible containment flap in an absorbent article of Claim 5, further comprising: a spunbond/meltblown laminate having a single layer of substantially continuous bicomponent spunbond fibers, the single layer having a basis weight of about 0.4 osy; and an about 8 gsm layer of elastomeric fibers having a basis weight of about 0.2 osy; a Young's modulus in the MD of about 0.9 psi/%, and a hydrohead of up to about 15 mbar.

14. The material suitable for a transversely extendible containment flap in an absorbent article of Claim 1, further comprising: the material having a hydrohead of between about 4 mbar and about 15 mbar.

15. An absorbent article comprising:

- a) an absorbent chassis, the chassis having a longitudinal axis;
- b) a containment flap having a free edge and an attached edge, the attached edge being attached to the chassis, the containment flap having a long axis and a transverse axis, the long axis being parallel to the longitudinal axis of the chassis, the flap having a tensioning force in its long axis, the flap having a low modulus of elasticity in its transverse axis and being extensible in its transverse axis, the tensioning force being sufficient to produce extension of the flap in the transverse direction.

16. The absorbent article of Claim 15 wherein: the flap has a modulus of elasticity in its transverse axis below about 5 psi/%.

17. The absorbent article of Claim 15 wherein: the flap comprises substantially continuous fibers.

18. The absorbent article of Claim 15 wherein: the flap is integral with an extensible outer cover of the article.

19. The absorbent article of Claim 15 wherein: the flap is bonded to the chassis of the article.

20. The absorbent article of Claim 15 wherein: the flap includes elastomerics within the flap to supply the tensioning force.

21. The absorbent article of Claim 15 wherein: the flap includes targeted elastics with higher tension elasticity located on that part of the flap located closer to the chassis and lower tension elasticity located on that part of the flap located farther from the chassis.

22. The absorbent article of Claim 15 wherein the flap comprises a material selected from the group comprising: necked spunbond/meltblown/spunbond material and necked spunbond material.

23. The absorbent article of Claim 15 wherein: the flap comprises a necked spunbond/meltblown/spunbond material having two layers of substantially continuous bicomponent spunbond fibers, each being necked to about 45% of their original width and having a basis weight of about 0.4 osy; and an about 8 gsm layer of elastomeric fibers having a basis weight of about 0.2 osy; the material having a Young's modulus in the CD of about 3.7 psi/%, and a hydrohead of greater than about 11 mbar.

24. The absorbent article of Claim 15 wherein: the flap comprises a necked spunbond material having a necked spunbond nonwoven material of substantially continuous bicomponent fibers being necked to about 45% of its original width, with a basis weight of about 0.4 osy, a Young's modulus in the CD of about 3 psi/%, and a hydrohead of less than about 4 mbar.

25. The absorbent article of Claim 15 wherein the flap comprises a spunbond/meltblown laminate having a single layer of substantially continuous bicomponent spunbond fibers, the single layer having a basis weight of about 0.4 osy; and an about 8 gsm layer of elastomeric fibers having a basis weight of about 0.2 osy; the material having a Young's modulus in the MD of about 0.9 psi/%, and a hydrohead of less than about 15 mbar.

26. The absorbent article according to Claim 15 wherein:

- a) the flap has a first section proximal to the attached edge, the first section being extensible in the transverse axis;
- b) the flap has a second section adjacent the first section and having an elasticity in the long axis for supplying the tensioning force; and
- c) the flap has a third section proximal to the free edge and adjacent the second section, the third section having a low modulus of elasticity in the long axis for aid in retaining the flap against the body of a wearer.

27. A method of making an absorbent article comprising:

making a material having extensibility with a low first modulus of elasticity in a first direction and elasticity in a second direction;

creating a flap from the material to have a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis with the material first direction oriented in the transverse axis of the flap; and

providing an absorbent chassis with a liner side and an exterior side; and attaching a longitudinal edge of the flap to the absorbent chassis so as to enable the flap to extend outwardly from the liner side and act as a leakage barrier for the absorbent article when worn by a wearer.